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# Message Text

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ACTION A-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00
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O 162135Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7591
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MEXICO 00791

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (MONDALE, WALTER F.), MX, CA
SUBJECT: BACKGROUND INFO AND THEMES FOR VICE PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH CIMMYT PERSONNEL

1. I. BACKGROUND
CIMMYT (PRONOUNCED SEE MEET) STANDS FOR CENTRO INTERNACIONAL DE MEJORAMIENTO DE MAIZ Y TRIGO, IN ENGLISH INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF CORN AND WHEAT. ESTABLISHED ELEVEN YEARS AGO, CIMMYT HAS BECOME FOCAL POINT OF HIGH QUALITY AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, TRAINING, AND ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. CIMMYT, ONE OF THREE SUCH RESEARCH CENTERS IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE, HAS ATTRACTED WORLDWIDE RENOWN FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT OF HIGH-YIELD WHEAT STRAINS, WHICH ARE CREDITED WITH THE GREEN REVOLUTION IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD. CIMMYT'S DIRECTOR OF ITS WHEAT PROGRAM, MY GOOD FRIEND DR. NORMAN BORLAUG, WAS AWARDED THE NOBEL PRIZE FOR HIS INVALUABLE WORK IN THIS AREA.

2. CENTERS, SUCH AS CIMMYT, ARE ESTABLISHED IN COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENTS WITH NATIONAL HOST GOVERNMENTS. CIMMYT HAS EIGHT EXPERIMENTAL STATIONS IN MEXICO, FOUR RUN INDEPENDENTLY AND FOUR RUN IN COOPERATION WITH INIA, THE NATIONAL
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INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, AN ARM OF THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT.

3. II. SUITABLE FOR SPEECH OR REMARKS

I AM PLEASED THAT SECRETARY FRANCISCO MERINO RABAGO OF THE SECRETARIAT OF AGRICULTURE AND WATER RESOURCES IS ABLE TO

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BE WITH US TODAY. I UNDERSTAND THAT NEXT WEEK HE WILL BE MEETING WITH MY FELLOW MINNESOTAN, U. S. SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE BOB BERGLAND, TO DISCUSS A NUMBER OF COOPERATIVE AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS THAT OUR TWO COUNTRIES HAVE UNDERTAKEN FOR OUR MUTUAL BENEFIT. WE LONG AGO DISCOVERED THAT DISEASES AND PESTS THAT AFFECT PLANTS AND ANIMALS IN ONE OF OUR COUNTRIES CAN ALSO CREATE PROBLEMS FOR THE OTHER. THROUGH THIS JOINT EFFORT WE HAVE MADE PROGRESS IN THE CONTROL OF A NUMBER OF PESTS THAT COULD WREAK HAVOC ON THE ECONOMIES OF OUR TWO NATIONS.

4. SECRETARY MERINO IS ALSO A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF CIMMYT.

5. THE COOPERATION BETWEEN CIMMYT AND THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT COULD SERVE AS A MODEL FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS SINCE BOTH PARTIES HAVE AMPLY BENEFITTED FROM THE ARRANGEMENT. NOT ONLY IS MEXICO SELF-SUFFICIENT IN WHEAT GERM PLASM, BUT IT HAS BECOME ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST IMPORTANT EXPORTERS OF THIS IMPORTANT PRODUCT. THE INDIRECT BENEFITS TO BOTH PARTIES ARE NUMEROUS. BOTH THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT AND INIA SHOULD BE LAUDED FOR THEIR ROLES IN CREATING THIS SYMBOL OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, ONE THAT HOPEFULLY WILL BE IMITATED SUCCESSFULLY ELSEWHERE AS THE NATIONS OF THE NORTHERN HEMISPHERE AND NATIONS OF THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE CONTINUE TO SEARCH FOR JOINT
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SOLUTIONS TO WORLD PROBLEMS.

6. MEXICO IS AN IDEAL LABORATORY FOR SUCH RESEARCH SINCE IT INCLUDES CLIMATES AND ALTITUDES OF ALL TYPES, WITH PLAINS AGRICULTURE, TROPICAL AGRICULTURE, AND SEMI-ARID AGRICULTURE. THE EXPERIENCE GAINED BY CIMMYT CAN BE APPLIED TO A VAST NUMBER OF DEVELOPING NATIONS WHOSE NEEDS OR EXPERIENCES MAY BE SIMILAR TO MEXICO'S.

THE CORN PROGRAM AT CIMMYT IS A PERFECT EXAMPLE OF THE SEARCH FOR SOLUTIONS DESIGNED TO FIT THE SPECIAL PROBLEMS OF THE THIRD WORLD AND REQUIRING THE PARTICIPATION OF THIRD WORLD NATIONS IN THEIR FORMULATION. I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU ARE NOW CONCENTRATING ON THE STRENGTHENING OF LOCAL CORN STRAINS, BREEDING FOR HIGH YIELD AND GREATER ENDURANCE AGAINST PESTS, WEATHER CONDITIONS, AND DISEASE. BY USING LOCAL STOCKS, DEVELOPING COUNTRIES CAN SEEK TO AVOID THE PROBLEMS OF REQUIRING A SPECIAL, NON-INDIGENOUS TECHNOLOGY TO RAISE AND HARVEST THE CORN. THE SOLUTION SOUGHT WILL FIT THE LOCAL SITUATION. TOO OFTEN WE REPRESENTATIVES OF HIGH-TECHNOLOGY SOCIETIES BELIEVE THAT A SIMPLE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY WILL SUFFICE TO SOLVE A

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PARTICULAR PROBLEM. WE HAVE NOT ALWAYS RECOGNIZED IN THE PAST THAT THE TECHNOLOGY THAT WORKS FOR MINNESOTA MAY NOT WORK FOR MEXICO. BESIDES PHYSICAL DIFFERENCES SUCH AS CLIMATE, INTANGIBLES SUCH AS FORMS OF SOCIAL STRUCTURE OR CHARACTERISTICS OF THE LABOR FORCE MUST ALSO BE PART OF ANY SOLUTION. THUS, THE EXPERIENCE OF CIMMYT SHOWS THAT THE COMBINED EFFORTS OF INDUSTRALIZED NATIONS AND DEVEL-OPING NATIONS, THE COMBINED EFFORTS OF THE FORMER'S TECHNOLOGY AND THE LATTER'S SPECIAL EXPERIENCES, CAN RESULT IN PRACTICAL BENEFITS FOR THE ENTIRE WORLD.

8. MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL, CIMMYT HAS PRODUCED PRACTICAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS THAT ARE CRITICAL FOR THE FUTURE OF THIS PLANET WHERE HUNGER IS A SAD REALITY FOR MILLIONS OF
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PEOPLE. THE DISGRACE OF HUNGER IN THE FACE OF HIGH TECH-NOLOGY IN FOOD PRODUCTION IS A SHAMEFUL PARADOX THAT WE IN THE INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS HAVE NOT ALWAYS CONFRONTED. WE NEED CONSTANT REMINDERS FROM GREAT SCIENTISTS LIKE DR.

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BORLAUG, FROM DEDICATED RESEARCHERS LIKE THE TEAM AT CIMMYT REPRESENTING TEN NATIONS AND FIVE CONTINENTS, THAT THE HORROR OF HUNGER IS STILL WITH US AND MUST BE RESOLVED IF WORLD PEACE IS EVER TO BE ACHIEVED.

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9. AS YOU KNOW MY GOVERNMENT HAS PLACED INCREASING EMPHASIS ON THE CRUCIAL NEED FOR FOOD AID AND FOR AID IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF FOOD PRODUCTION. THE US HAS PLAYED A LEADING ROLE IN THE UN WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE AND ITS FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES TO FOCUS WORLD ATTENTION ON THIS SERIOUS PROBLEM. MOST RECENTLY, THE US CONGRESS ENACTED SEVERAL CHANGES IN THE WELL-KNOWN PL 480 LEGISLATION WHICH SHOULD MAKE PL 480 AN EVEN BETTER TOOL FOR HELPING TO IMPROVE FOOD PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION IN DEVELOPING NATIONS. THE WORK OF ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS CIMMYT ARE CRUCIAL TO THE FINAL SUCCESS OF PROGRAMS LIKE PL 480 AND TO THE FINAL GOAL OF THE ERADICATION OF HUNGER FROM THE FACE OF THE EARTH. LUCEY

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